

# NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANEA

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## Notes on Philippine Birds

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Further studies of the collection made by the junior author in Negros and Mindanao impress us with the discoveries to be made and the problems and complexities still to be solved in connection with the birds of the Philippines. The following two items indicate that the number of resident species to be recognized in the Philippines must be increased by two. In one case, two species have been considered as one; in the other, two forms thought to be allopatric and considered subspecies are shown to be in part sympatric and hence to be treated as species.

### *Phapitreron amethystina* and its relatives

The genus is a Philippine one, with two species currently recognized: *leucotis* and *amethystina*. The *P. amethystina* type of bird is widely distributed from Luzon to Tawi-Tawi (but not on Mindoro or Palawan). A number of quite distinct island representatives have been recognized. Hachisuka (1932, p. 181-183) considered all of them subspecies of *amethystina*; Manuel (1936, p. 296-301) in a review of the group, considered the Tawi-Tawi bird as representing a distinct species, and the rest of the Philippines to be inhabited by six subspecies of *amethystina*. Peters (1937, p. 24-25) considered all the forms, of which he recognized five, to be subspecies of *amethystina*, a course followed by Delacour and Mayr (1946, p. 83).

Though without sufficient material to review the whole question we have material of two of the forms, formerly considered geographical representatives, from the same area in Mindanao. This indicates that at least two species are concerned in the complex currently considered *P. amethystina*. These are:<sup>1</sup>

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*1. amethystina*

Mindanao, Mt. Apo, east slope, 5750 feet altitude, 1 ♂ ; Nov. 7, 1946  
H. Hoogstraal.

Mindanao, Mt. McKinley, east slope, 3000 feet altitude, 1 ♂ ; Sept. 25, 1946,  
H. Hoogstraal.

Wing ♂ 142, 142 mm.

These, compared with a Samar male, wing **148**, differ only in being slightly darker on the crown and on the breast. Manuel did not mention either of these characters in the description of his new Mindanao race, *mindanaoensis*, which he described as differing from *amethystina* only in the color of the gloss of the hind neck—a difference not apparent in present material. Apparently *mindanaoensis* is a synonym of *amethystina* as it is currently treated.

*2. brunneiceps*

Mindanao, Mt. McKinley, east slope, alt. 3020 and 3100 feet: 1 m, 1 f  
Aug. 13, Sept. 15, 1946; H. Hoogstraal.

Wing m, **132**; f **137** mm.

These differ from the above three specimens of *amethystina* in the much more vinaceous tinge of the underparts; in the considerably deeper brownish undertail coverts; in brown, not gray, crown and nape; in the redder gloss of the hind neck; and in having no white or pale line below the dark line below the eye, as well as in being smaller. In most of these characters they agree with the descriptions of *brunneiceps* hitherto known only from Basilan.

As we have two forms from about the same altitude on the east slope of Mount McKinley, it appears that they must be treated as species.

The question arises as to how to arrange the related forms. When all these forms were thought to be allopatric, it was simplest to unite them in one species. Now, with two living together, and thus species, it seems advisable to look at the whole series with a new point of view: if the differences between forms are of the magnitude of those distinguishing the two known species, it might seem advisable to consider them species, and adopt the following arrangements. *Phapitreron amethystina* group: *P. amethystina*, *P. maculipectus maculipectus*, *P. maculipectus frontalis*, *P. brunneiceps*, *P. cinereiceps*.

On the other hand, the presence or absence of the white line below the eye might be considered as a "key" species character and the following arrangement, which has the merit of allowing the minimum number of species, used: *P. a. amethystina*; *P. a. maculipectus*; *P. a. frontalis*; and *P. c. cinereiceps* and *P. c. brunneiceps*.

*Phylloscopus olivaceus* and its relatives

The discovery that the birds from Negros Island currently assigned to *Phylloscopus olivaceus* showed two types of plumage led to a survey of the available material of the species: our material augmented by specimens borrowed from the American Museum of Natural History through the kind offices of Dr. Ernst Mayr. It appeared that actually two species were represented, for both of which names are available, and that one species shows geographical variation that necessitates the naming of a new subspecies.

*Phylloscopus olivaceus olivaceus* (Moseley)

*Abromis olivacea* Moseley, 1891, Ibis, 1891, p. 47, Samar and Negros. Type locality hereby restricted to Samar.

Moseley had a representative of both this form, from Samar, and of *P. cebuensis* from Negros (see below) when he described *olivaceus*, but designated no type. Grant (1896, p. 543), commenting on the female type from Negros, implies that the male was from Samar. Thus, the first locality mentioned, from which came the first bird described, is chosen as the restricted type locality. We have four old specimens from Samar that compare well with the original description of the male which says the upper parts are olive green, veiled on head with ashy, under parts whitish, streaked with pale greenish yellow. Six specimens from Zamboanga, altitude 2000-2500 feet in Mindanao collected in 1950 are similar, though with clearer olives and grays, due probably to foxing of the old skins. From Negros, we have similar specimens from Amio, altitude 1000 feet (7); Balangbang in Tolong, 1500 feet (1); Naliong in Tolong, 2000 feet (2), all three localities in the southwest part of the island; and Pagyabonan, 1000 feet, in Bais in the southeastern part of the island. The junior author examined a similar specimen in the United States National Museum from the Sulu Archipelago.

## Measurements, wing:

Samar	male	60, 60, 61, 62
	sex ?	58, 61
Mindanao	male	55, 61
	female	54, 55, 59
Sulu	male	58
Negros	male (10)	55-65 (ay. 60 mm.)

*Phylloscopus olivaceus luzonensis* new subspecies

Type No. 184355 from Massisiat, Abra Province, Luzon Island. Adult male collected May 18, 1946, by the Philippine Zoological Expedition.

*Diagnosis.* Similar to *P. o. olivaceus* but with more of a yellowish wash on the throat; back duller--the same color as crown, both with considerable gray in them instead of crown only being grayish and contrasting with the olive green back; slightly smaller in size.

*Measurements.* Northern Luzon (Abra Prov.), male, wing **54, 58**; Central Luzon, male, wing **54, 55, 56, 57, 57, 57**; female, wing **53, 54**.

*Range.* Probably Luzon only.

*Remarks.* There is little difference between northern and central Luzon birds. Skins taken many years ago have the grays slightly duller and the yellow somewhat warmer than in fresher skins.

*Phylloscopus cebuensis* (Dubois)

*Cryptolopha cebuensis* Dubois, 1900, **Syn. Av.**, p. 286. New name for *Cryptolopha flavigularis* Bourns and Worcester, 1894, Minnesota Acad. Nat. Sci. Occ. Papers, 1, p. 23, Cebu (not *Cryptolopha flavigularis* Austen, 1878). Type locality Cebu.

*Diagnosis.* Differs from *P. o. olivaceus* in having the chin and throat pale yellow, not whitish; the side of the head and superciliary with much more and brighter yellow; undertail coverts brighter yellow; crown greener, not contrasting with back, instead of mixed with gray and contrasting with back. Compared with *P. o. luzonensis*, throat with more and intenser yellow; sides of head with brighter yellow; crown and back uniform and greenish olive with little or no gray; undertail coverts brighter yellow.

Measurements of wing:

Cebu	male	<b>60, 62</b>
Negros	male (9)	<b>54-61</b> (ay. <b>57.8</b> )
	female (7)	<b>53-59</b> (ay. <b>54.5 mm.</b> )

*Range.* Cebu and Negros Island.

*Remarks.* One of us (Rabor) examined the type of *Cryptolopha flavigularis* Bourns and Worcester in the U. S. National Museum and found it the same as Negros yellow-throated birds.

As mentioned above, when Moseley described *P. olivaceus* he had a white throated male bird from Samar that he described first, and which should carry the name *olivaceus*, and a yellow throated bird from the mountains of southern Negros that he described as the female of his new form. Later, **Grant** (1896, *Ibis*, p. **543**) considered the difference between these two birds as due to age. That it is not due to sex or age is apparent from our material that shows the female and immature plumage to be similar to that of the adult male.

The close similarity of this species to the preceding inclined us to consider it at first a subspecies of *olivaceus*. In part it is a geographical representative occurring at higher altitudes in southern Negros where *olivaceus* does not occur. Thus, at Lake Balinsasayao, 3000-3500 feet, and Cuernos de Negros, 4-6000 feet, where 11 specimens were taken, no *olivaceus* were found; while in Amio, in the southeast, seven specimens were all *olivaceus*. However, in Tolong, 1500-2000 feet, three specimens of each were taken, and in Bais, 1000 feet, two of the three specimens taken were *cebuensis*, one *olivaceus*. While the two forms were not taken at the same place on the same day, they certainly come from the same general area, and the specimens do not show intergradation. *P. cebuensis*, on Negros, appears to be a higher altitude species with a partial overlap, at least, with the lower altitude *P. olivaceus*.

The possibility of relating *luzonensis* with *cebuensis*, rather than *olivaceus* was considered. In some ways it is equally close to both: intermediate in amount of yellow; the grayish green crown and back could be considered intermediate between the gray crown and green back of *olivaceus* and the green crown and back of *cebuensis*. Geographical distribution seemed the final and the deciding factor; it seemed to be better considered a representative of *olivaceus* and that led us to unite it with *olivaceus*.

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